

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 11264 051653Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----126586 051656Z /47

O R 051646Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9639
INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 11264

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, WA, SF
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION OF WALVIS BAY
ISSUE

REF: STATE 87130

1. WE INFORMED QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NON-FRANCOPHONE AFRICA (GUEGUINO) OF OUR VIEWS ON HOW CONTACT GROUP SHOULD HANDLE WALVIS BAY ISSUE. GUEGUINO SAID THAT THIS APPROACH APPEARED TO DEAL ADEQUATELY WITH FRENCH OBJECTIONS. GUEGUINO DID NOT UNDERTAKE TO SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO FRENCH UN MISSION, BUT WE THINK THAT HAVING BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE US POSITION THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE ISSUED PROMPTLY AFTER THE VIEWS OF THE FRENCH MISSION AND THE OTHER CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO PARIS.

2. COMMENT: WE THINK THERE IS CONSIDERABLE UTILITY IN INFORMING THE QUAI IN ADVANCE OF POSITIONS WE ARE TO PRESENT TO THE CONTACT GROUP AS IT CAN SIGNIFICANTLY
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SPEED UP FRENCH REACTION TIME. EXCEPT IN CASES OF GREATEST URGENCY (AND ON THIS THE FRENCH MAY HAVE THEIR OWN VIEWS) WE THINK THAT THE QUAI WILL, HOWEVER, ONLY RELUCTANTLY ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS UN MISSION BEFORE IT HAS HEARD THE VIEWS OF THE MISSION AND THE OTHER CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A COMPLETELY NEGATIVE POSITION.

TO DO OTHERWISE MIGHT GIVE AMBASSADOR LEPRETTE THE
FEELING HE IS BEING BYPASSED. WE WONDER IF THIS MIGHT
NOT RISK UNDERMINING WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN EXCELLENT
WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR UN MISSION IN NEW YORK
WHICH HAS RESULTED IN FAST AND DECISIVE ACTIONS IN THE
PAST.
HARTMAN

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